



# KARO ECHO Newsletter

## KARO ECHO

Serving the communities  
of El Cerrito and  
Kensington, California

Web: [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

Facebook:

[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

## Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz  
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

## Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 pm

(online via Zoom also)

Kensington Comm. Center,  
59 Arlington Blvd,  
Kensington, CA

The next meetings are:

Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Meeting minutes are on  
[the website](#) in the past  
events page.

## What's New

### KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 1900 — Hybrid In-person or Zoom

The monthly KARO ECHO meeting will be **hybrid in-person and online** via Zoom, at 1900, Monday Sept 12th. The training portion cover preparations for the Oct. 8 SET. [Full agenda link.](#)

### Fall KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test, Sat. Oct. 8, 1000-1200

Please plan to participate in the KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday October 8th, 1000-1200. We especially welcome new operators who haven't done the SET before. Reach out to [elmer@karoech.net](mailto:elmer@karoech.net) if you want some guidance to get started. We also offer pairing with an experienced operators during the event for on-the-job training. Integration of neighborhood FRS/GMRS operators and unlicensed support from scribes, etc., is welcome.

### In-person Hands-on Digital Messaging Training, Sat. Sept 24

KARO ECHO is expanding digital training to grow the pool of operators with these skills. A hands-on in-person training is tentatively scheduled for Sat. Sept. 24th (time TBD), coming details via email. This training will focus on the basics of FLdigi/FLmsg messaging using digital emcomm forms and acoustic coupling. Please bring a radio and a laptop computer (any OS), or a tablet/phone (Windows/Android). After success with acoustic coupling, some work with wired interface will be demoed, and a selection of interface devices will be on hand to try out. See the August newsletter (pg 8) for details about digital radio interfaces.

### QSO Today Virtual Ham EXPO, Sept. 17-18

The 5th QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo includes 50+ amateur radio presentations on a wide variety of subjects. For more information and to purchase a \$10 ticket, go to [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com). Here's a [list of the presentations](#). They can be viewed after the event, if you have a schedule conflict.

### Pacificon is coming next month, Oct. 14-16, 2022, in San Ramon

Pacificon, the premier ham radio event on the west coast is being held Oct. 14-16 in San Ramon <https://www.pacificon.org/> The [early registration \(\\$25\) is available through Oct. 2](#), \$30 at the door. [Schedule of events](#). Technical [forum schedule](#).

### New Country EmComm net, Thursdays 1830, 3893 kHz

A reminder to HF operators to join the Contra Costa County EmComm Net on 3893 kHz every Thursday at 1830.

**LOCAL NETS****KARO ECHO Simplex Nets**

146.415 MHz (primary)

146.475 (secondary)

**Voice net:** Thursday, after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 hours local time.

**Digital net:** Monday, 1900

**West Contra County ACS/RACES Net**

145.110 MHz repeater  
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)  
Thursday: 1845 local time

**Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net**

3893 KHz. Thursday, 1835

**American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)**

WW6BAY Repeater  
443.975 MHz  
TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz  
Wednesday: 2000 local time

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Howdy KE6BEE  
Vice-Pres: Frans KJ6IUV  
Treasurer: Annette KJ6SWK  
Secretary: Tom KN6BUY  
Em. Coord: Howdy KE6BEE  
Outreach/PR Manager:  
Blake KN6CMP  
Web-maestro: Rob K6RJM  
Board member at large:  
Hal KK6NDF  
Net Manager and Newsletter  
Editor: Howdy KE6BEE

**What's New *(continued)*****Neighborhood nets and Communication Hub Activities**

The first Wednesday of the month has a lot of radio activity in the area.

**West county EmComm net out of Richmond at 11 am** (starts after the Richmond siren test) FRS/GRMS simplex (on Ch.19, secondary Ch. 17), followed by a ham net on the [WA6KQB 440 repeater](#) with WA6DUR repeater as secondary (see WA6DUR freq. information below)

**East Richmond Heights**, ham operators check-in at 1845 on Walt's WA6DUR repeater 442.150 +5 offset and PL tone 107.2Hz.

**EC4 (central El Cerrito Hills)** CERT Net, Ch. 2 (462.5875), at 1845

**EC9 (north El Cerrito Hills)** CERT Net, Ch. 15 simplex (462.550), at 1900

**East Richmond Heights, Ready-2-React Net**, Ch. 7 (462.7125), at 1930

**EC8 (north El Cerrito)** CERT net, Ch.4 (462.6375), at 2000

**Ken6 (SW Kensington)** CERT net, on first Tuesdays, Ch. 6 (462.6875) at 1900

**Richmond simulated EOC net**, first Thursdays at 1030, on three simplex frequencies in this order: 147.450, 441.000, 223.400

**Albany Radio Net**, Wed. (weekly) 1900 on Ch.19 [Albany Radio groups.io](#)  
[Coordination of neighborhood FRS/GMRS frequencies can be found here.](#)

**Welcome New Hams**

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

**Action - Contribute to this Newsletter**

Content for this newsletter is always welcome. We are seeking submissions for a new free classified section for selling/trading radio equipment/services. Anyone with events or other content suggestions please send them to the newsletter editor Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

**Digital Net, Wed. 9/14, 1930**

Because of the member meeting on Monday, the digital net will be on Wed. 9/14, at 1930 on 146.415. In addition to the weekly digital nets for practice and experimentation, Starting in Sept. there will be a monthly digital net focusing on regular FLdigi/FLmsg emcomm messaging practice for a wider group.

## What's New *(continued)*

### Radio Team KARO ECHO Hats

Thanks to Blake KN6CMP and Susan KN6CMR for organizing an order of KARO ECHO hats. They are safety yellow with reflective trim and embroidered lettering. They can be purchased from KARO ECHO for \$25. Contact Howdy KE6BEE for more information [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net).



### FCC \$35 Amateur Application Fee Took Effect April 19, 2022

The \$35 application fee, effective on April 19, applies to new licenses, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, are exempt from fees. [More here](#). GMRS is reduced from \$70 to \$35.

### Online payments to KARO ECHO

It is now possible to pay KARO ECHO membership online through PayPal. No PayPal account is required. Use the [donate button on the KARO ECHO home](#) page, or under the heading "[Get Involved—Join](#)".

Your dues and donations are the source of funds for our ongoing costs of operation, as well as installing equipment we need to have in place for effective emergency operations. Currently, we are planning to install additional antennas and patch boxes in El Cerrito and Kensington to give easy outdoor access to high quality communication for operators deployed various public spaces.



### Treasurer's Report

KARO-ECHO Treasurer's Report				
As of Sept 11, 2022				
	Credits	Debits	Bank Balance	Notes
Balance Forward from 8/3/2022			\$1,588.07	
Since last report				
Family Membership	40		\$1,628.07	(2) waiting for callsigns
Family Membership	40		\$1,668.07	(2) waiting for callsigns
Individual Membership	30		\$1,698.07	KK6JNI
Individual Membership	30		\$1,728.07	KN6CRT
Balance 9/11/2022			\$1,728.07	
32 total paid members to date for 2022				

## Activities

### Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. Fill-ins are sometimes needed and we can always add another to permanent rotation. Please volunteer to give it a try. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the **new scheduled dates** for each operator next year. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: Thanksgiving 11/25/2021, 11/24/2022)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	10/21/2021	12/30/2021	3/3/2022	5/5/2022	7/7/2022	9/8/2022	11/10/2022
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	10/28/2021	1/6/2022	3/10/2022	5/12/2022	7/14/2022	9/15/2022	11/17/2022
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	11/4/2021	1/13/2022	3/17/2022	5/19/2022	7/21/2022	9/22/2022	12/1/2022
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso	11/11/2021	1/20/2022	3/24/2022	5/26/2022	7/28/2022	9/29/2022	12/8/2022
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	11/18/2021	1/27/2022	3/31/2022	6/2/2022	8/4/2022	10/6/2022	12/15/2022
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	12/2/2021	2/3/2022	4/7/2022	6/9/2022	8/11/2022	10/13/2022	12/22/2022
KJ6IUV	Frans Kuypers	12/9/2021	2/10/2022	4/14/2022	6/16/2022	8/18/2022	10/20/2022	12/29/2022
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman	12/16/2021	2/17/2022	4/21/2022	6/23/2022	8/25/2022	10/27/2022	1/5/2023
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	12/23/2021	2/24/2022	4/28/2022	6/30/2022	9/1/2022	11/3/2022	1/12/2023

### Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

[A log of our check-in counts can be found here.](#) Howdy KE6BEE typically updates this document in real time during the net, so you can check it against your log during or after the net.

For 2020: 1008 check-ins, avg. 21/week, high of 28, 72 unique callsigns

For 2021: 919 check-ins, avg. 19/week, high of 25, 54 unique callsigns

For 2022 (so far): 641 check-ins, avg. 18/week, high of 23, 46 unique callsigns

Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

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## About KARO ECHO

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KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in-person at the Kensington Community Center (KCC) as well as online using Zoom (hybrid meetings).

The next meetings are:

- ♦ Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- ♦ Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: [www.karoecho.net](http://www.karoecho.net)

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

### KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

### Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

### Newsletter Content Wanted

Any input on content you'd like to propose for inclusion in the KARO ECHO newsletter can be sent to Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net) We welcome all ideas for content including announcements, events, etc.

### KARO ECHO Field Day Video

Thanks to Frans KJ6IUUV for taking video and editing a nice [movie of Field Day activities](#).

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## Outreach, Education and Licensing

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### Local and Online Ham License Classes and Exams

Many ham license classes and exams are offered locally or entirely online. See a [list of opportunities on the KARO ECHO website](#)

### ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

### Recruiting Additional Communications Coordinators

Read the [Neighborhood District Radio Communications Coordinator \(DRCC\) plan](#) written by Don NI6A.

### Training for Beginning Operators

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Edward KM6UBY and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd 2020 introductory radio class, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here.](#)

### Net Control Operator Training

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught an Apr 4th 2020 net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

### EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo)

### ELMERING

An online elmering forum can be accessed by emailing [elmer@karoecho.net](mailto:elmer@karoecho.net) or browsing the associated google group. More in-depth elmering/mentoring is available by request.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of useful information at <https://www.karoecho.net> website.

### Encouragement to Monitor 146.415 and Explore Other Nets

It is always encouraged to monitor 146.415 (call out for others occasionally and make some casual contacts). There are a lot of other nets around the bay area that you can reach. Expand your radio horizons. See the [KARO ECHO Coordination page](#) for a listing of some other nets to explore. You can just listen at first, or program your radio (if a repeater is used) and try transmitting as a guest check-in to see if you can make contact.



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## KAROECHO.Net Website

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Especially, check out the EVENTS Page ( <https://www.karoecho.net/events> ) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ This [new heading on the Events page](#) will be updated with recent additions to the website.
- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A [follow-through novice primer](#) has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more.
- ♦ A [dual-band antenna primer](#) for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes will be found at our Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email [info@karoecho.net](mailto:info@karoecho.net)

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## Other Resources

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"ALERTWildfire" camera links in our area:

[William Rust Summit cam](#)

[Wildcat Canyon cam](#)

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

[View real-time data from any weather station in the state.](#)

[Zonehaven evacuation zone here by on this interactive map](#)

[Albany Radio Groups.io forum](#)

[Eastbay Resilience Groups.io forum](#)

[Marina Bay Neighbors and 1st Wed West county GMRS net](#)

To make it easy for amateurs to evaluate RF exposure, ARRL provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its [RF Exposure page](#).

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## KARO ECHO Classifieds

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We are soliciting classified ads from KARO ECHO members, and friends, to facilitate gifting, swapping, selling radio gear and/or offering help/services such as loans of special equipment/tools, etc. Please send any content to the newsletter editor, Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

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**Loaner radios/antennas/meters** available for trial/testing, including:

HTs, larger mobile radios, gear for digital modes and mesh nodes, SWR/power meter

Contact: Howdy [ke6bee@arrl.net](mailto:ke6bee@arrl.net)

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**Available for free:** B&K Precision 2120B oscilloscope - 20MHz bandwidth, dual trace, triggered sweep. Contact: Tom, KN6BUY, at [tfat@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tfat@sbcglobal.net)

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